## FEDERATION OF EAST AFRICAN FREIGHT FORWARDERS ASSOCIATIONS

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## An advocate of the freight logistics profession

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## To participate in an Institutionalized Dialogue Mechanism for Private Sector and Civil Society Organizations and consultation on the EAC development strategy stakeholders' workshops

## **Activity Status**

FEAFFA participated in the private sector and civil society consultative meetings in Arusha - Tanzania. The meetings took place from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> May and brought together private sector and civil society stakeholders from within the East Africa community. The two meetings were organized by the East Africa Community (EAC) in collaboration with Trade Mark East Africa (TMEA) and Germany International Cooperation (GIZ).

The main objective of the first meeting was to discuss the public private dialogue mechanism with the EAC as provided for by the *Article. 127* of the treaty that established the EAC. The article directs the Secretary General to develop a dialogue mechanism with the private sector and civil society organizations. The main objective of the second meeting was to get the input of PSO/CSOs in drafting the EAC development strategy 2011- 2016

The main recommendation was to hire a consultant to develop the draft framework for the EAC private sector/civil society dialogue mechanism closely coordinating with the EAC secretariat, the EABC and East

To participate in an Automated System for Secure Electronic Transit (ASSET) sensitization meeting in Dar Es Salaam.	Africa Civil Society Organisations Forum (EACSOF). This will be shared with the stakeholders for their input in another workshop.  The half day sensitization meeting was organized in Tanzania. The Automated System for Secure Electronic Transit (ASSET) is a new trade facilitation instrument proposed as an alternative to the current transit bonds system.  Initial indications were that the scheme was viable and the study and pilot proof of concept were a good starting point. The stakeholders raised some key issues for consideration for example the limited existing infrastructure, regulation, policies and cost benefit of the importers among others.
To Facilitate in a East Africa Customs Freight Forwarding Practising Certificate (EACFFPC) Curriculum Implementation Committee (CIC) Meeting in Arusha - Tanzania	<ul> <li>The 6th CIC meeting was held on 19th to 20th May in Mt. Meru Hotel, Arusha, Tanzania. The meeting reviewed the status of the implementation of the training programme, and came up with areas of immediate concern that needs urgent attention among them:</li> <li>Review the EACFFPC Curriculum and training materials</li> <li>Mainstreaming of the programme under the EAC</li> <li>Expansion of training delivery</li> <li>High-Level Policy meeting to revise the programme's policy etc. (Resolutions of the meeting are attached)</li> <li>TMEA provided the financial support for the meeting.</li> </ul>
To facilitate a meeting between the CIC and Directorate of Customs of EAC in Arusha, Tanzania	The meeting was held between FEAFFA Secretariat, chair of CIC and the Director of Customs at EAC. The main objectives of the meeting were:  • Enhance collaboration with EAC Secretariat in training of Customs agents  • Explore possibilities of anchoring the EACFFPC programme under the Directorate.  • Seek partnership of the Directorate in the establishment of the proposed accreditation system for capacity building programmes of Customs agents as well as in the establishment of a registration board for practitioners in the sector.
To participate in the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Roundtable on the impact and Risk of Trade and Investments	The event organized by African Trade Insurance Agency (ATIA) was mainly to provide a platform for the public and private sectors to discuss Africa's risk outlook and

To participate in the Oversight Committee on Axle Load Control workshop in Jacaranda, Westlands	make proposals on make Africa more attractive for investment through minimized risk. Participants included ministers from several African countries plus heads of International and African private sector, and the diplomatic and multilateral communities.  Among others, the following topics were discussed:  Regional Integration cooperation: Foundation for growth and prosperity  Private Investment in Africa and the Middle East – Challenges & opportunities  Africa's risk perception – The media as a force for change  In conclusion, participants embraced regional integration as the only option for a disadvantaged and highly fragmented Africa if it was to harness the opportunity of being the only global investment haven  The two day meeting was held at Jacaranda Hotel in Nairobi on the 10th – 11th May 2011. FEAFFA made a presentation on the perspective of clearing and forwarding agents on the issue of axle load control.  The key output was a strategy on how the committee would expedite axle load control in Kenya. All the stakeholders represented on the committee were assigned to different sub-committees that were tasked to lead the oversight committee in the different aspects. FEAFFA is on the Legal review and enforcement subcommittee.  The sub committees are yet to meet and draw up their terms of reference.
To launch the Code of Conduct	This activity was scheduled for 12 <sup>th</sup> May but was later
	postponed to 30 <sup>th</sup> June 2011.
To organize a Board Meeting	This activity was also scheduled for 4th May 2011 but was also postponed to June.
To market the regional directory of freight forwarders	This is a continuing activity and the directory is expected to be in the market effective August 2011
Meeting with Commissioner Generals of East Africa Revenue Authorities and EAC Director of Customs	The meeting was slotted for early May but was rescheduled to October/November this year. This was occasioned by a meeting of the Ministers of Finance in the Region, which was urgently organised in the month thereby necessitating rescheduling of other planned activities for the Commissioner Generals.